



Grant County Health Department

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December 16, 2009

Contact: Jeff Kindrai, MSPH, RS
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For Immediate Release:

Grant County Health Department Offering Free 2009 H1N1 Flu Shots to All

The Grant County Health Department is administering the 2009 H1N1 flu vaccine free of charge to all interested individuals that do not have a medical contraindication such as a severe egg allergy or other reasons why receiving the vaccine is not recommended.

Jeff Kindrai, Director/Health Officer for the Grant County Health Department encourages individuals, especially those under 25 years of age, pregnant women, and persons with underlying health conditions that place them at an increased risk for complications to get vaccinated for 2009 H1N1 at this time. Kindrai comments that while influenza like illness reports have recently slowed, a large percentage of individuals (estimated to be greater than 60%), remain at risk for becoming ill because they are not protected.

Kindrai notes that "Many people feel that they have already had the flu and it is not necessary to get vaccinated. However, there have been several different illnesses circulating. For the small number of people that were tested and confirmed to have had H1N1 by a lab result, a 2009 H1N1 shot is probably not necessary but a seasonal flu shot may still be considered. Regarding 2009 H1N1 vaccine, Kindrai says "It's free and it's the best protection we have."

Grant County Health Department reported the death of a Grant County resident as a result of H1N1 influenza in early November. As of December 16, 2009 the State reports that Wisconsin has had 854 hospitalizations this fall and 46 deaths since April due to H1N1 flu.

(More)

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Grant County Health Department also currently has a supply of seasonal influenza vaccine available at \$25.00/dose for adults and a very limited supply of free seasonal flu mist for children age 2 years through 18 years. However, flu mist can not be given to children with certain underlying health conditions such as asthma.

Health experts warn that cases of seasonal influenza are expected to increase in the coming months. According to Kindrai, seasonal flu typically peaks sometime in February or March therefore receiving seasonal flu vaccine now is still very beneficial. Young children, pregnant women, people with health conditions, and persons 50 years and older should get the seasonal flu shot.

More information on 2009 H1N1 and seasonal influenza including clinic locations and times can be found by visiting www.co.grant.wi.gov (using the quick link on the right side of the page) or by calling (608) 723-6416.

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